

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning on line 17 of page 6 with the following paragraph rewritten in amendment format:

The model 200, as shown in Figure 5, may also include constraints that reflect simplifying assumptions. In particular it may be assumed that each operation is only represented in [[on]] one tree structure. Thus, node 208 may appear on tree structure 202, but not tree structure 204. Moreover, another assumption may be made that one unique path exists between any two nodes within a tree structure. Thus, for example, the only path between nodes 214 and 206 is through branches 228 and 226. Furthermore, it may be assumed that all of the operations occur sequentially (see the illustration of the process 100 of Figure 4). These assumptions may be checked by functions built into the model 200. Thus, once the model 200 is sufficiently complete to document the process, engineers, managers, customers, and others may access the model 200 and manipulate it to study the costs of owning the modeled system. Of course, sections of the process may also be modeled alone and studied accordingly.